



# Western Downs Regional Council BIOSECURITY PLAN



## Document Detail

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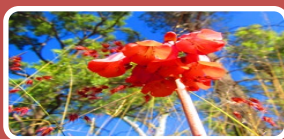
## History

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	PREPARED	CHECKED	APPROVED
Draft v0.1	05/05/2015	Pest Management Plan	C Hallinan	T Summerville	
	14/10/2015	PMP Workshop - Working Group (Local Government, NRM Groups, Landholders, CSG, Biosecurity Qld)			
	01/07/2016	Change in legislation - Land Protection Act (Stock Routes and Pest Management) replaced with the Biosecurity Act 2014			
Draft v0.2	23/05/2017	Biosecurity Plan	C Hallinan	T Summerville	
Final 1	28/07/2017	Biosecurity Plan	C Hallinan	T Summerville	

## Final Issue

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# BIOSECURITY PLAN - STRUCTURE



## **PART A - 'MANAGEMENT STRATEGY'**

**Outlines :** Stakeholders and Responsibilities for pest management, Legislative Requirements, Declared and Non-Declared Pests within WDRC and identifies the strategies and resources required for effective pest management



## **PART B: 'PRIORITY PESTS, ACTION PLANS & CONTROL'**

**Outlines:** Priority Pest plants and animals within WDRC (High, Medium and Low Priority) and associated Action Plans, Strategies and Best Practice control methods. Identifies 'threatening' pest plants and animals to WDRC.



## **PART C: 'WEED SEED PREVENTION'**

**Outlines:** Washdown Facilities

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Western Downs Regional Council Biosecurity Plan defines and outlines the fundamental strategies, objectives and outcomes necessary for a planned and coordinated approach to pest management across the region.

The potential impact from pest animals and plants could be devastating if there was no management undertaken to prevent, eradicate, contain, control and/or minimize their spread. Pest plants and animals have the potential to alter ecosystem function, reduce primary industry productivity and profitability, seriously limit the long-term sustainability of natural and agricultural landscapes and can impact on human and animal health.

The Purpose of the WDRC Biosecurity Plan is therefore to:

- Identify pest animal and plants that impact and threaten the region now and into the future.
- Identify resources necessary for effective and timely management of pests.
- Provide action plans and strategies for the whole of WDRC (including landowners, Stakeholders and Council)

Collaboration and Partnerships, rather than isolated actions, is the fundamental aim for continuous improvement of pest management programs within the Western Downs. The collaboration of stakeholders, combined with a coordinated program at a landscape scale ensures that everyone is working together on a common issue and towards a common goal. The opportunity to identify issues, plan, implement, and monitor and share local successes greatly improve community cohesion and strength. Western Downs Regional Council encourages and facilitates the collaboration and partnering of Local Government, Natural Resource Management Groups and importantly land managers and the community in order to break down the traditional barriers existing within Pest Management. No Longer is the issue 'yours' or 'mine' - It's 'OURS'.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

Pest Management is a core operation and contributes to Council's Strategic Priorities of achieving **Active Vibrant Communities**, **Strong Economic Growth** and **Great Liveability**. Council's approach to Pest Management is one of coordination and collaboration with a focus on continuous improvement in order to minimise the impacts on production, environment and the economic loss to the community.

## **LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS - BIOSECURITY ACT 2014**

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* stipulates - All persons are obligated to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimize the biosecurity risk - which is our **General Biosecurity Obligation**.

The main purposes of the Biosecurity Act 2014 are as follows:

- To provide a framework for an effective biosecurity system for Queensland that helps to minimize biosecurity risks and facilitates responding to impacts on a biosecurity consideration, including responding to biosecurity events, in a timely and effective way.
- To manage risks associated with the following:
  - Emerging, endemic and exotic pests and diseases that impact on:
    - Plant and animal industries, including agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, fisheries and forestry industries.
    - The built environment
    - Companion or leisure animals

- Biodiversity and the natural environment
- Tourism, lifestyle and pleasure industries
- Infrastructure and service industries, including power, communication, shipping and water supplies
- The transfer of diseases from animals to humans and from humans to animals.
  - Biological, chemical and physical contaminants in carriers.

Table 1 identifies the pest plant and animal classifications as outlined in the Biosecurity Act 2014.

<b>Table 1 - Pest Plant and Animal Classification</b>	
Category	Description
Prohibited Matter	Biosecurity Matter* which is not currently present or known to be present in the State. Reasonable grounds to believe that if it did enter the State or part of the State the Biosecurity Matter may have significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration.
Restricted Matter	Biosecurity Matter that is currently present in the State. Reasonable grounds to believe that, if restrictions under this Act are not imposed on the Biosecurity Matter (control or contain it) – it may have adverse effect on biosecurity considerations
Locally declared	Under the Local Law provisions of the Local Government Act 2009, a Local Government can declare any plants not declared Restricted Matter under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and enforce their control.
<p>* BIOSECURITY MATTER is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a living thing, other than a human part of a human</li> <li>(b) a pathogenic agent that can cause disease</li> <li>(c) a disease</li> <li>(d) a contaminant.</li> </ul>	



## PART A: 'MANAGEMENT STRATEGY'

**Outlines :** Stakeholders and Responsibilities for pest management, Legislative Requirements, Declared and Non-Declared Pests within WDRC and identifies the strategies and resources required for effective pest management

### 1.0 STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITY

A number of groups, government agencies and individuals manage land within the Western Downs Regional Council area and are therefore responsible for controlling pest plants and animals on their land. Western Downs Regional Council owns and manages a significant proportion of land within the region and therefore is a leading agency or landholder responsible for implementing, demonstrating and coordinating best practice management in weed and pest animal control. Table 2 identifies some of those stakeholders.

**Table 2 - Responsibility of Stakeholders.**

Stakeholder	Responsibility
Western Downs Regional Council	Ensure that declared plants and animals are controlled within its Local Government area and on land under its control. Utilise the resources available and use compliance and enforcement for Restricted plants and animals in accordance with the Act and as relevant to the situation.
	Preventing the introduction and spread within its area of Prohibited and/or Restricted plants and animals and enforcing relevant provisions of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>
	Compliance, Surveillance, Local Planning, Mapping and Raising Awareness, Coordination and Facilitation.
	Assist in and support the development and coordination of landholder driven Pest Management groups. Regulate and facilitate pest control on private land through strategic and coordinated groups.
Community	Ensuring ownership of pest management throughout the region by contributing towards the awareness, knowledge, prevention and early intervention of pest animals and plants.
Landholders	All landholders are responsible for taking reasonable steps towards controlling declared plants and animals on land under their control

#### Identified Stakeholders within the Community

Local government - TRC, MRC, BRC, GRC	Landcare Groups
Biosecurity Queensland	Pest management groups
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Agforce
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services	Mining and Resource Companies
Department of Transport and Main Roads	Wild Dog Barrier Fence Management Committee
Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board	Queensland Rail
NRM Regional Bodies	
Queensland Rail	

## 2.0 DESIRED OUTCOMES, ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

Western Downs Regional Council has identified six main outcomes and objectives that are desirable for effective pest management. This section of the Biosecurity Plan outlines the Strategic Actions and expected outputs that are fundamental in achieving the desired outcomes. These strategic actions form the basis of the on-ground operations for Rural Services and for the management of pests within Western Downs Regional Council.

### 2.1.1 Desired Outcome 1 - COMMITMENT AND CONSULTATION

#### **ALL STAKEHOLDERS COMMIT TO, AND IMPLEMENT, COORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF WEEDS AND PEST ANIMALS.**

##### **Principles:**

*Commitment* – effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.

*Consultation and partnership* – Consultation and collaboration between local communities, industry groups, state government agencies and local governments must be established for integrated pest management. Table 3 outlines strategic actions to address the issues of Long Term Commitment and Compliance and Enforcement in Pest Management.

<b>Table 3 - Long Term Commitment, Compliance and Enforcement.</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Establish, through consultation, agreed roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders in the implementation of the WDRC PMP and Annual Action Plans - including contributions to annual action programs.	Overall success of pest management.
Include resource allocations in annual action plans subject to the timing of Council budget deliberations	Allocations made in annual action plans
Ensure that the WDRC Biosecurity Plan is integrated into relevant sections of Councils Corporate Plan	Biosecurity Plan is incorporated and pest management issues remain part of Councils core business
Maintain Rural Services Team to provide information and if necessary advice on pests to landholders, agencies and relevant stakeholders.	Full time permanent: RSC, RSS, NRM Officer, 2 RSO/region, Wild Dog Trapper. 2 Contracted Wild Dog Trappers.
Incentives to encourage landholders and pest management groups to assist Council in pest management issues.	1. Utilisation of WDRC Quick spray unit. 2. Utilisation of 1080 baiting scheme. 3. Development of herbicide subsidy scheme
Development and Implementation of 'Approved Inspection Programs' for High Priority pest plants and animals.	Approved Inspection Programs completed Annually
Encourage and facilitate the development and functioning of landholder pest management groups.	Number of pest management groups operating across WDRC

#### **2.1.1a Landholder Pest Management Groups**

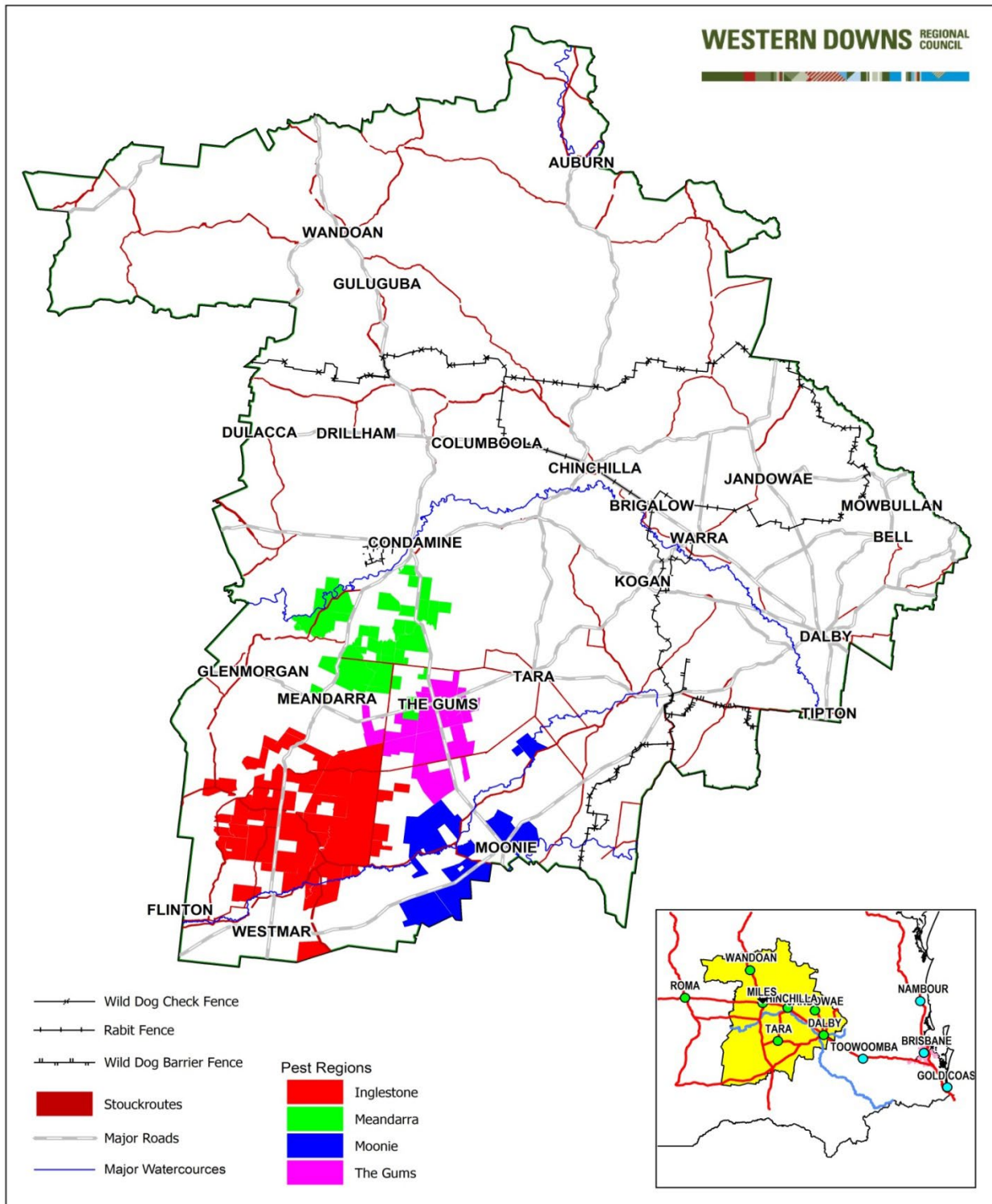
The formation of Landholder driven Pest Management Groups is a key component towards achieving coordinated pest management and the overall aim of collaboration and partnerships. Several pest management groups are already in existence across the region and are experiencing great success. Table 4 identifies the current functioning landholder pest management groups. New groups and areas will be added every year.

Western Downs Regional Council is committed to supporting and assisting the establishment of landholder pest management groups where priority pests are managed and controlled

through coordinated and strategic programs. The functioning of Pest Management Groups will enable prioritization of Council pest management programs and operation.

**Table 4. Western Downs Regional Council**

Local Government Area	38,039 square kilometres
Roads	<i>Unsealed: 5423 kilometres</i> <i>Sealed: 2118 kilometres</i>





## 2.1.2 Desired Outcome 2 - PREVENTION

### THE INTRODUCTION, SPREAD AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS IS PREVENTED.

**Principle:** *Prevention* - preventative pest management is achieved by:-

- a) Stopping the spread of pest, and viable parts of pests, especially by human activity
- b) Early detection and intervention to control pests.

Table 5 indicates strategic actions to achieve Prevention, Eradication and Containment.

<b>Table 5. Prevention, Early Detection, Eradication and Containment.</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Ensure inspections and controls of priority pests on all Council controlled land are undertaken on a timely basis.	All complaints and enquiries reported to be actioned within WDRC timeframes.
Ensure Council (departments within Infrastructure Services) and industry develop and implement pre and post hygiene provisions in operations.	
Ensure Council (departments within Infrastructure Services) and industry re-inspect areas /corridors that have been disturbed, every 6 months to monitor new weed incursions (18month period)	
Monitor and inspect nurseries, markets and pet shops for the sale of pest fish, plants and animals.	Conduct 6-monthly inspections on all plant nurseries and pet shops within the region. More frequent inspections if pest plants or animals identified.
Provide technical advice to landholders - including verbal and provision of Pest Fact sheets or Annual Action Plans and strategies.	Number of landholders Pest Fact Sheets provided to.
Develop and implement action plans for the eradication of pest plants in <i>Prevention and Introduction and Early Detection and Eradication (Class 1)</i> categories if found within the WDRC Region.	Action Plans developed and implemented as necessary.
Promote machinery hygiene standards including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Encourage use of weed hygiene declarations as a quality assurance measure.</li> <li>b) Encourage all contractors (including earthmoving, heavy machinery, slashers, etc) and livestock transport businesses throughout the region to be diligent with washdown of machinery and vehicles.</li> <li>c) Include weed seed spread induction requirement in Tender/Council tender process.</li> </ol>	Measures taken to promote machinery hygiene standards. Annual public awareness campaign. Clause included in Council tender documents to prevent weed seed spread. Council to provide annual education session to Council Works Foreman. Number of training sessions provided to Council Staff.
Maintain and promote existing infrastructure (ie Washdown Facilities at Wandoan, Chinchilla and Dalby)	Washdown Facility operational Plan
Raise community awareness of pest threats through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Field Days and Identification workshops</li> <li>• State-wide generic advertising campaign for pest prevention - targeting travelling public (ie road signs).</li> </ul>	Number of media releases and field days undertaken.
Continue to maintain existing Wild Dog Check Fence (Tara section) until an appropriate review of its future is completed and seek alternative sources of funding for capital replacement.	Keep the fence dog proof.
Continue to offer trapping and baiting services to landholders to manage pest animals inside barrier fences. Encourage QPWS to carry out baiting in forests that provide refuge to pests.	Trapping undertaken by Council Trapper
Continue to participate in coordinated regional responses to prioritized early detection and eradication programs.	

### 2.1.3 Desired Outcome 3 - MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

#### **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS ARE ESTABLISHED, MAINTAINED AND RESPONSIBILITY ACCEPTED BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS.**

**Principle:** *Planning* – pest management planning must be consistent at local, regional, state and national levels to ensure resources target priorities for pest management identified at each level. *Integration* – pest management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems. Table 6 identifies strategic actions to address issues of Planning, Management and Coordination and Resources.

<b>Table 6. Planning, Management and Coordination and Resources</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
WDRC Biosecurity Plan reviewed on an annual basis	Plan reviewed and amended as required
Seek in-kind and financial support/sponsorship from industry, government and the community for community awareness and employment programs	Number of government, industry and community groups approached.
Allocate sufficient qualified staff to undertake Property Pest Management Planning with landholders.	Sufficient staff available to implement the Property Pest Management Planning concept within allocated budget.
Ensure that priority pest management actions are adequately resourced.	Sufficient financial resources to implement priority strategies and actions
Investigate all potential funding sources to fund pest management.	Funding sources investigated and applications drafted
Maintain partnerships and collaborative strategies with neighbouring Councils to identify and target emerging infestations of pests.	Number of partnerships and collaborative strategies developed and maintained.
Continue to contribute funds to Rabbit Board, WDBF, pest research and extension services through the local government Precept payment system	

### 2.1.4 Desired Outcome 4 - AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

#### **STAKEHOLDERS ARE INFORMED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HAVE OWNERSHIP OF PEST PLANT AND PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT.**

**Principle:** Public awareness and understanding of pests must be improved to increase the capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests. Table 7 identifies strategic actions to address the issues of raising awareness, information availability and Education and training.

<b>Table 7. Awareness, Information Availability and Education and Training.</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Promotion of: 1. Council Biosecurity Plan. 2. Council Pest Management Programs	Media Coverage of Biosecurity Plan. Links to Biosecurity Plan on website/s
Maintain and improve partnerships with NRM Regional bodies, Landcare and pest groups to coordinate awareness-raising and capacity building activities (eg Agricultural Shows, field days, demonstrations, media and newsletters)	Number of awareness activities completed for both weeds and pest animals.
Rural Services Staff to complete accredited training:- 1. Nationally accredited competency-based training in weed and vertebrate pest management. 2. Workplace health and safety inductions 3. Training in ground operation controls for pesticide application in accordance with the <i>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</i> (Qld) 4. Queensland Department of health approved training in the use of sodium fluoroacetate (1080). 5. Vehicle Washdown Inspection	All appropriate staff trained
Maintain access points to the community to obtain pest information (eg Council customer service centres, libraries, information centres, stakeholder offices).	Access points maintained

## **2.1.5 Desired Outcome 5 - MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **RELIABLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS A BASIS FOR DECISION MAKING.**

#### **Principle:**

Improvement - research about pests and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices. Table 8 identifies strategic actions to address issues of data collection and monitoring and evaluation.

<b>Table 8. Data Collection and Assessment</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Establish a system for landholders and community to report new pest plants and pest animals: (a) Produce and circulate a standard form on which landholders and community can report information on pests (eg species, area, density, numbers etc) (b) Encourage Council staff (other than Rural Services), contractors, stakeholders and others to use the pest reporting form. (c) Encourage community groups, Landcare etc to report pests using the reporting forms.	Reporting form developed - capturing data relevant to Pest Central. Form available on stakeholder websites.
Encourage data sharing between adjoining Local Governments, NRM bodies and state agencies to encourage proactive and collaborative approaches to pest management. WDRC to contribute pest data to state-wide mapping of all declared pest species (ie BQ Annual Pest Survey)	Data Sharing and partnerships for coordinated approaches to pest management established.
Develop appropriate pre and post treatment monitoring and evaluation techniques - assess effectiveness of current management programs and strategies.	Monitoring system developed that provides relevant information about the success of treatments conducted.

### **2.1.5a Vertebrate Pest Monitoring - LANDSCAPE PEST DATA CAPTURE**

#### ***Background***

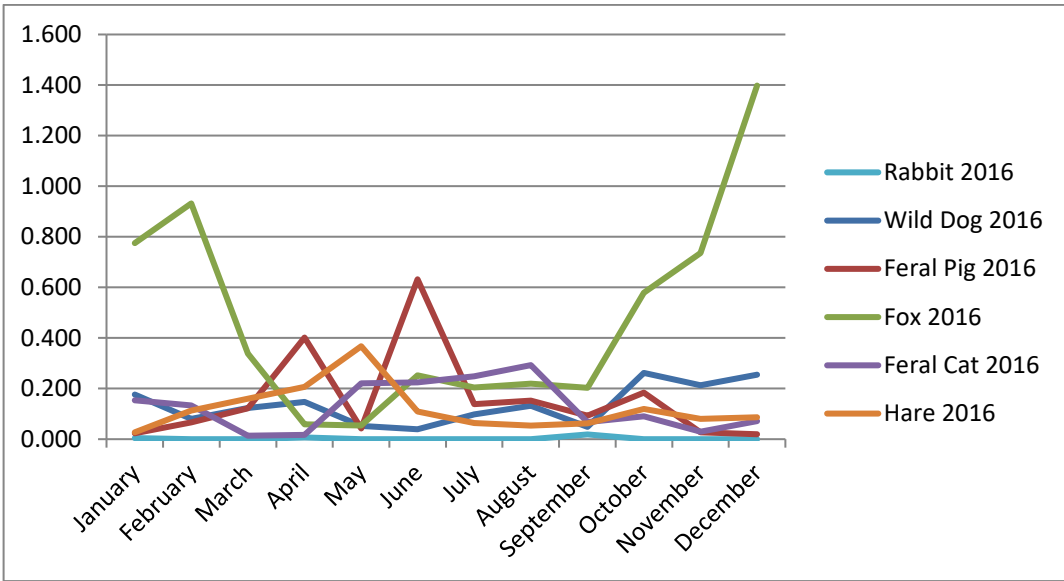
Historically, Pest Management actions have been a reactive response to an impact and/or an incursion of a pest. For example, a landholder seeing a mob of pigs, a dead sheep or bitten calves. This ad-hoc management approach however, is not strategic or coordinated and therefore does not always achieve the desired outcome or result. Improvements to motion camera technology and the increased availability of cameras in the field has seen a movement towards pest management decision making based on science based data and available long-term pest activity. Unfortunately, however, the processing and management of capture data is challenging with collection and then processing of the raw data into a useable format being both time consuming and costly.

Fortunately, tools are becoming available to enable the automation of data capture, data processing, analysis and storage and to report the information back in an easy to understand format to land managers in order to implement control measures.

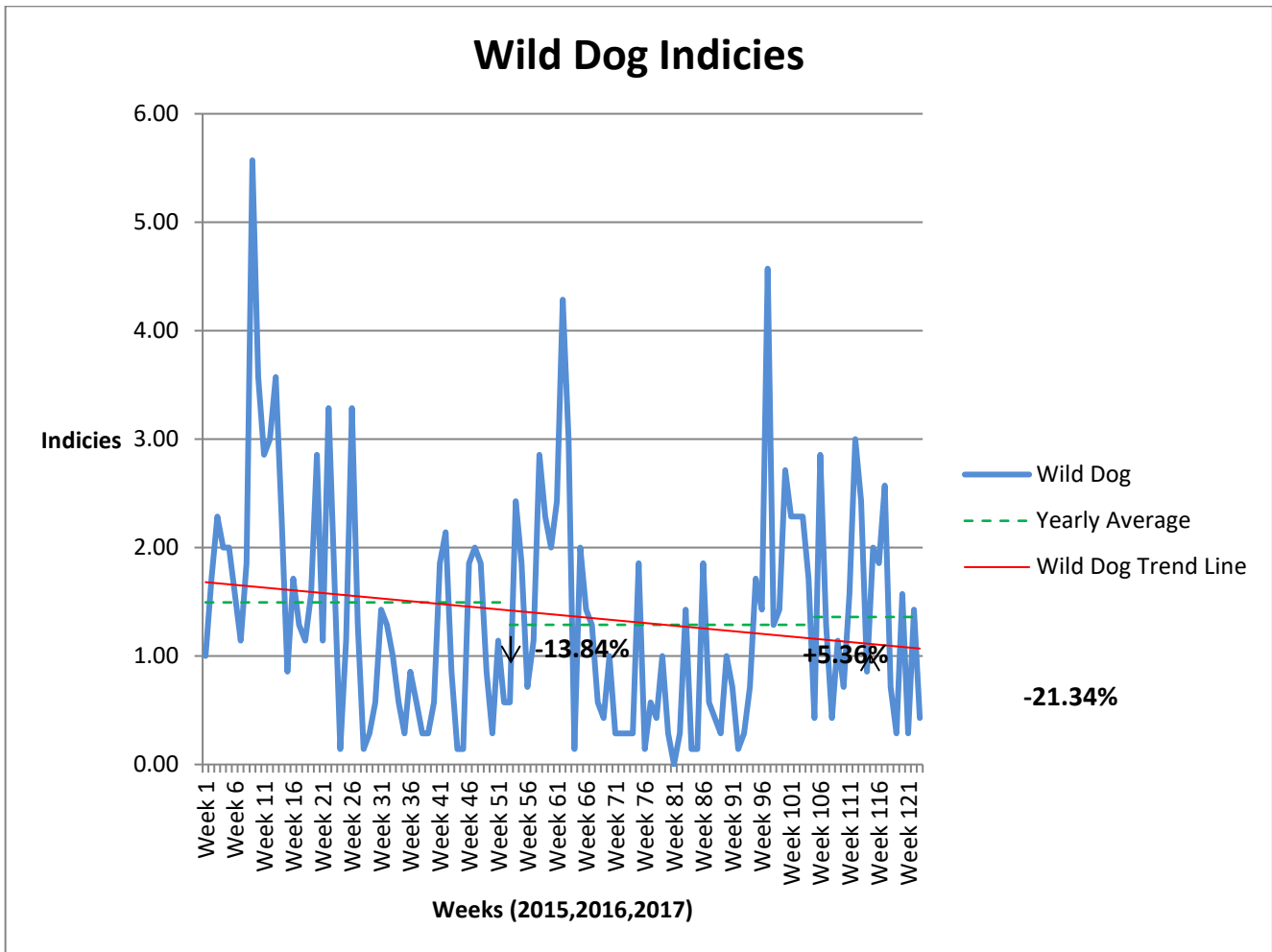
#### ***Original Pilot Project***

At the end of 2014 Western Downs Regional Council undertook a pilot data capture project with the aim of identifying long term pest management trends for site specific areas. A total of 10 cameras were set out over two properties. The initial intent was to count all species of animals that triggered the camera however it became apparent quickly that the manual data processing required would be too great. Therefore the focus was reduced to entirely pest species. Despite this reduction in data processing time, there is still roughly 16hrs/fortnight associated with transferring the data from the field to and also processing the data into a useable report.

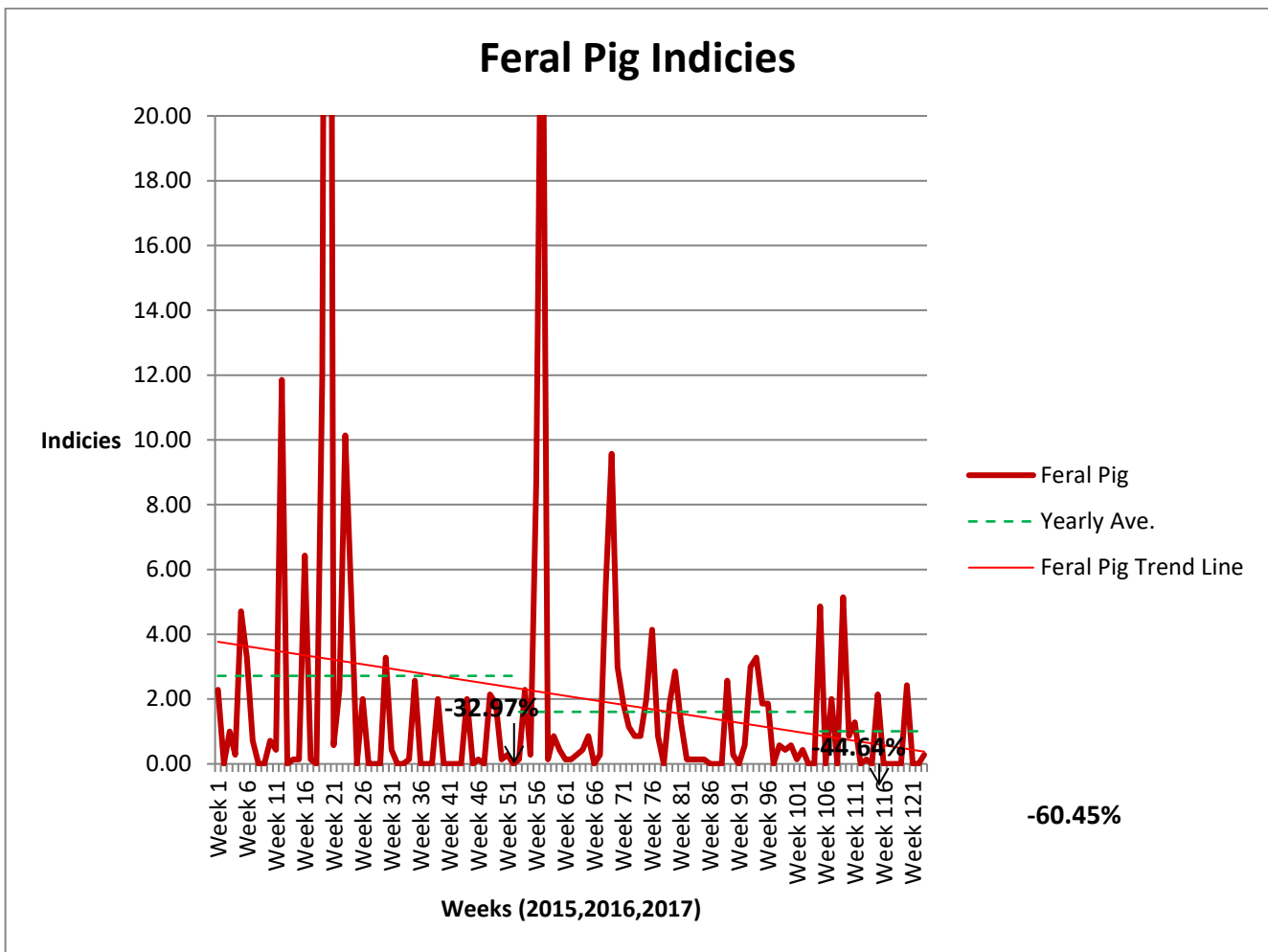
Graphs 1 to 3 illustrate some of the data captured through the pilot program.



Graph 1. Vertebrate Pest Data 2016.



Graph 2. Wild Dog Index Trend



**Graph 3. Feral Pig Index Trend (Wambo property)**

**Secondary Pilot Project**

Through the use of more efficient motion cameras, that use file transfer protocol (FTP) data can be transferred to a :http// address automatically in near real time. This allows users to convert the raw data (photos) into a useable numerical context such as an activity index. The addition of an 'App' will enable camera settings to be changed through remote access. These new cameras also have the capability to allow the SD card to run on a cycle and will delete old images and therefore will only need to be physically managed in the field if there is an issue and the camera has stopped sending images to the :http// address.

Converting raw data to a numerical useable format has been time consuming in the past, however through Councils network we have access to 'beta' application that sorts through motion camera images at a more efficient rate than previous data entry methods.

**Concluding statement**

Western Downs Regional Council recognises the fundamental importance of data capture and Vertebrate Pest Monitoring. The ability to benchmark populations and the likely activity of pest in the region can provide valuable information to not only determine the success of pest programs but to enable more strategic and coordinated pest management through landholder groups across the region.

## 2.1.6 Desired Outcome - INTEGRATION

### **INTEGRATED SYSTEMS FOR MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF ESTABLISHED PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE DEVELOPED AND WIDELY IMPLEMENTED.**

**Principle:** *Best Practice* - pest management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources. *Improvement* - research about pests and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices. *Commitment* - effective pest management requires a long-term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.

Table 9 identifies strategic actions to address the issues of Environmentally Significant Management, Community Incentives and Management Practices.

<b>Table 9. Environmentally Significant Management, Incentives and Management Practices.</b>	
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Identify and prioritise environmentally significant areas for pest management.	ESA's identified and management strategies developed on a case by case basis as required.
Continue current incentives and investigate further potential incentives and disincentives to encourage pest management (ie 1080 services, quickspray units)	Allocated budget for incentives program for Wild dog/dingo scalps. Three FREE Wild Dog baiting programs (Meat baits) per year (March, May and September). Number of occasions quick spray unit is utilized by landholders.
Consider appropriate pest management practices in carrying out other functions of local government including road construction and maintenance, stock route and waste management.	PMP practices incorporated in Council's other core activities.
Adopt ongoing philosophy to continually identify inadequacies in existing pest management practices and areas where future research should be aimed.	Updated pest management practices.
Coordinate local pest reduction and management programs through existing and future landholder pest groups and also neighboring LGA's.	Number of coordinated programs implemented (area covered, number of pest groups)
Distribute biological control agents as part of integrated control programs	
Encourage productive uses of pests to reduce impacts, including commercial harvesting and biomass fuels.	

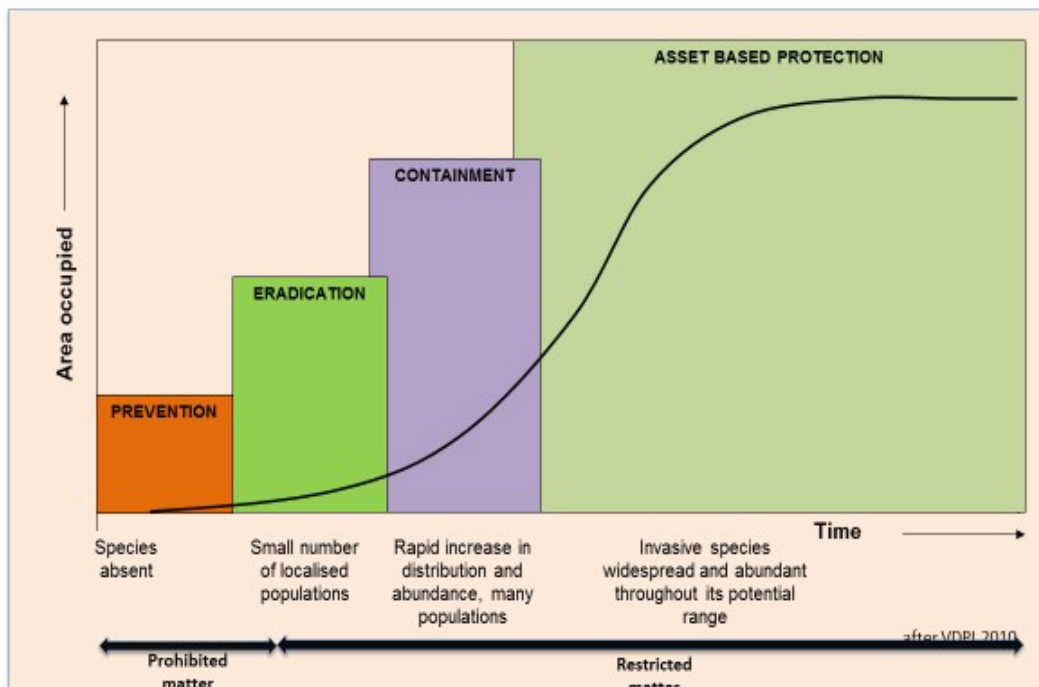


## PART B: 'PRIORITY PESTS, ACTION PLANS & CONTROL'

**Outlines:** Priority Pest plants and animals within WDRC (High, Medium and Low Priority) and associated Action Plans, Strategies and Best Practice control methods. Identifies 'threatening' pest plants and animals to WDRC.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Part B of the Biosecurity plan is designed to be utilized by Landowners, Stakeholders, Community and Council Staff as a management tool when undertaking any surveying, monitoring or control activities. Pest plants and animals are identified as High, Medium or Low Priority and identified as to whether they can be Eradicated, Reduced, Contained or Monitored. Pest plants and animals can be added or removed from priority listings depending on current and new infestations. Council Priority Pest lists will be reviewed and updated annually. Figure 1 illustrates the level of resources required at each level of the invasion schedule and Table 1 identifies the strategic actions for each level.



**Figure 1. Generalised Invasion Schedule**

**Table 1. Strategic Actions for Level of Pest Invasion**

PREVENTION	ERADICATION	CONTAINMENT	ASSET BASED PROTECTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Education</li> <li>-Risk Assessments</li> <li>-Targeted communication</li> <li>-Legislation</li> <li>-Immediate Response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Eradication Programs - strategic management plans.</li> <li>-Targeted communication</li> <li>-Monitoring and Evaluation Program</li> <li>-Research</li> <li>-Example: Salvinia Eradication Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Surveillance</li> <li>-Integrated control - Herbicide, Mechanical, Physical, Biocontrol.</li> <li>-Industry and Local Gov't joint investment.</li> <li>-Mapping and GIS</li> <li>-Community Engagement</li> <li>-Targeted Funding</li> <li>-Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Industry and community decision making</li> <li>-Pest Management Planning</li> <li>-Co-investment</li> <li>-Capacity Building</li> <li>-Integrated management - biocontrol, new methods.</li> <li>-Coordinated, consistent approach</li> <li>-Mapping and GIS</li> </ul>

## 2.0 HIGH PRIORITY - PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

High Priority pest plants and animals are those which have been identified as having the ability to cause substantial damage to the agricultural industry and the environment within the region of Western Downs Regional Council. Table 1 identifies all 'high' priority pest plants and animals within Western Downs Regional Council. All stakeholders should ensure that management actions for all high priority species are prioritized over all other.

<b>Table: 1 - High Priority Pest Plant/Animal Species</b>	
<b>PEST PLANTS</b>	<b>PEST ANIMALS</b>
<b>ERADICATE – Can be eradicated from the region completely</b>	
Giant Parramatta Grass ( <i>Sporobolus fertilis</i> )	
Giant Rats Tail Grass ( <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> )	
Hymenache ( <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> )	
Parkinsonia ( <i>Parkinsonia aculeate</i> )	
Parthenium ( <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> )	
Salvinia ( <i>Salvinia molesta</i> )	
Water Hyacinth ( <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> )	
Water Lettuce ( <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> )	
<b>REDUCED in Distribution and Density</b>	
African Boxthorn ( <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> )	Feral Pigs ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )
	Wild Dogs ( <i>Canis familiaris</i> )
<b>CONTAINED to Specific Areas</b>	
Harrisia Cactus ( <i>Harrisia martini</i> )	
Mother of Millions ( <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> )	
Tiger Pear ( <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> )	
Velvet Tree Pear ( <i>Opuntia tomentosa</i> )	

Each high priority pest plant and animal has an 'Annual Action Plan' (AAP) or strategy - which outlines the management actions and targets.

## 3.0 MEDIUM PRIORITY - PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Medium priority pest plants and animals are those which have been identified as having the ability to cause substantial damage to the agricultural industry and the environment within the region of Western Downs Regional Council – rated as 'Moderate Threat'. The medium priority species identified are very seasonal in nature and populations are monitored very closely. Control measures will be implemented by stakeholders when required. Table 2 identifies all 'medium' priority pest plants and animals within Western Downs Regional Council.

<b>Table: 2 - Medium Priority Pest Plant/Animal Species</b>	
<b>PEST PLANTS</b>	<b>PEST ANIMALS:</b>
<b>MONITORED</b>	
Plague Pest – locusts ( <i>Austracris guttolosa</i> and <i>Locusta migratoria</i> )	Plague Pest - mice ( <i>Mus domesticus</i> )



## 4.0 LOW PRIORITY - PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Low priority pest plants and animals are those which have been identified as being in existence and potentially problematic within the region – rated as ‘Moderate’ or ‘Low’ Threat. The low priority species identified are commonly established and widespread across the region. Control measures will only be implemented under the following circumstances:

- The pest species occurs in an isolated infestation and can be eradicated from the identified region or catchment.
- The pest incursion is threatening an Environmentally significant region
- A Strategic and coordinated program – with all stakeholders participating in control. For example: if a Pest and Weed landholder group identified the weed or pest as a priority for management and majority of landholders were participating.

Table 3 identifies all 'LOW' priority pest plants and animals within Western Downs Regional Council.

<b>Table: 3 - Low Priority Pest Plant/Animal Species</b>	
<b>PEST PLANTS</b>	<b>PEST ANIMALS</b>
<b>REDUCED in Distribution and Density</b>	
Bathurst Burr ( <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> )	Foxes ( <i>Vulpes Vulpes</i> )
Green Cestrum ( <i>Cestrum parqui</i> )	
Mimosa Bush ( <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> )	
Noogoora Burr ( <i>Xanthium pungens</i> )	
Prickly Pear ( <i>Opuntia inermis</i> )	
<b>CONTAINED to Specific Areas</b>	
African Lovegrass ( <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> )	Feral Deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus, Dama dama, Axis axis</i> )
Broad-leaved pepper tree ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> )	Feral Horses ( <i>Equus calibus</i> )
Camphor laurel ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> )	Rabbits ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )
Cats Claw Creeper ( <i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i> )	
Lantana ( <i>Lantana camara</i> )	
Lippia ( <i>Phyla canescens</i> )	
<b>MONITORED</b>	
	Cane Toad ( <i>Bufo marinus</i> )
	European (Carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )
	Feral Cats ( <i>Felis catus</i> )
	Indian Myna ( <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> )

## **5.0 CASE STUDY - COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION. (Landholder Pest Management Group – Feral Pig Pilot Project**

Western Downs Regional Council Rural Services in partnership with QMDC and landholders coordinated and implemented two Aerial Shooting programs for Feral Pigs across 4 targeted regions of Moonie, The Gums, Inglestone and Meandarra/Hannaford/Condamine - where landholder driven Pest Groups had been initiated. Each group consists of a 'group coordinator' who is identified as the main contact and person responsible for coordinating the individual aerial programs and providing property details and information to the helicopter pilot and the shooter. The first aerial shoot was very successful with 122 land managers involved and 5070 feral pigs destroyed. Land managers involved began to physically see and then talk about the advantages in running 'coordinated' programs. The more people implementing control at once achieves greater outcomes and results.

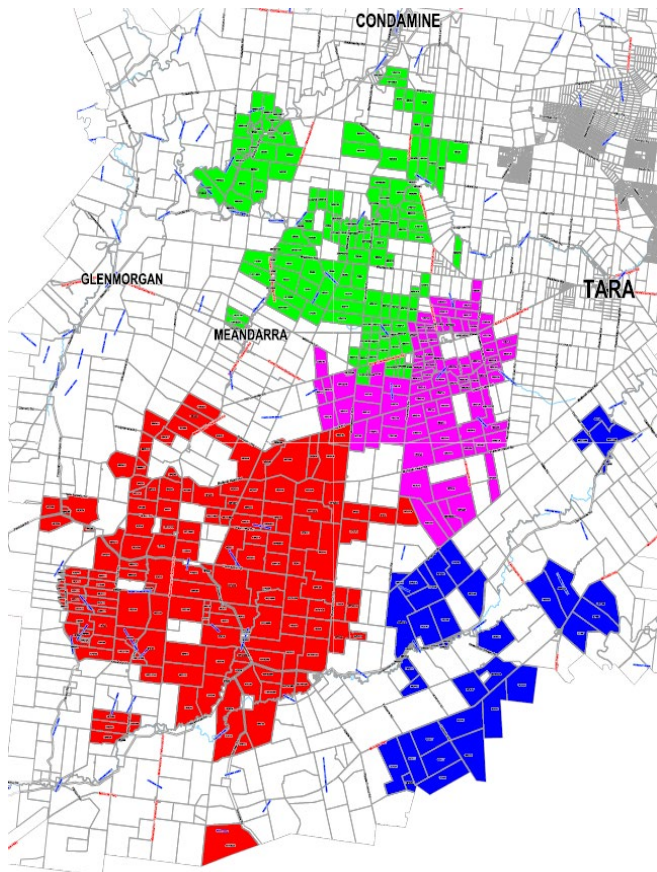


Shortly after the Round 1 Aerial Shoot - Rural Services staff facilitated a meeting with land managers in order to:

- Assist participants in evaluating Round 1 - mapped results were provided.
- Provide opportunity for anyone to ask questions or identify any issues so that these could be addressed in Round 2.
- Discuss and organize the Round 2 Aerial shoot - For example, when it was going to occur, who we needed to target for participation.
- 

Some groups were reluctant (for financial reasons) to run the program so soon after Round 1. As a result, land managers were informed on the 'population knockdown' process and theory, continuing to 'knockdown' the feral pig populations while numbers are low and not allowing them to build up to the high numbers again before implementing further control. To further counteract some of these concerns, the schedule in which the aerial shoot occurred in Round 1 was swapped around (ie groups completed program in a different sequence).

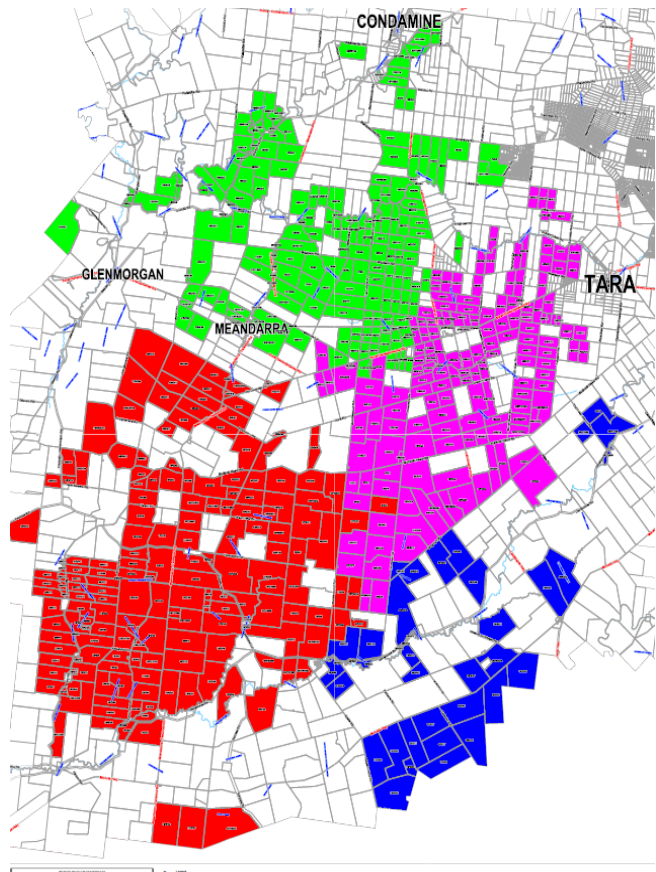
The second program was extremely successful with an increase in landholder participation to 131 and 5958 feral pigs destroyed. Throughout the 2 feral pig programs, over 11,000 pigs were destroyed over an area greater than 350,000 hectares.



Western Downs Regional Council  
 Drought Pest Project Aerial Shooting  
 Map 1 of 2  
 This map shows the regions included in the Drought Pest Project Aerial Shooting program. The regions are color-coded as follows:  
 Red: Meandarra  
 Pink: Condamine  
 Blue: Glenmorgan and Tara  
 The map is based on the 2016 cadastral data and is subject to change without notice.

Drought Pest Project  
Aerial Shooting

WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL



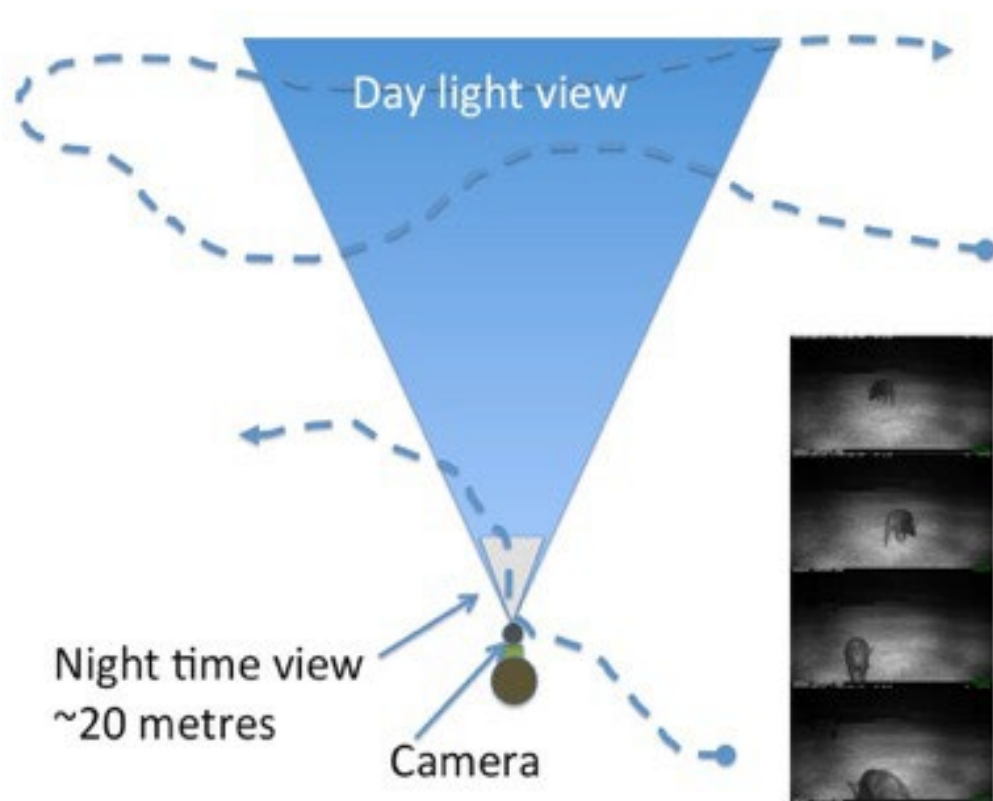
Western Downs Regional Council  
 Drought Pest Project Program 2 Aerial Shooting  
 Map 2 of 2  
 This map shows the regions included in the Drought Pest Project Program 2 Aerial Shooting program. The regions are color-coded as follows:  
 Red: Meandarra  
 Pink: Condamine  
 Blue: Glenmorgan and Tara  
 The map is based on the 2016 cadastral data and is subject to change without notice.

Drought Pest Project  
Program 2  
Aerial Shooting

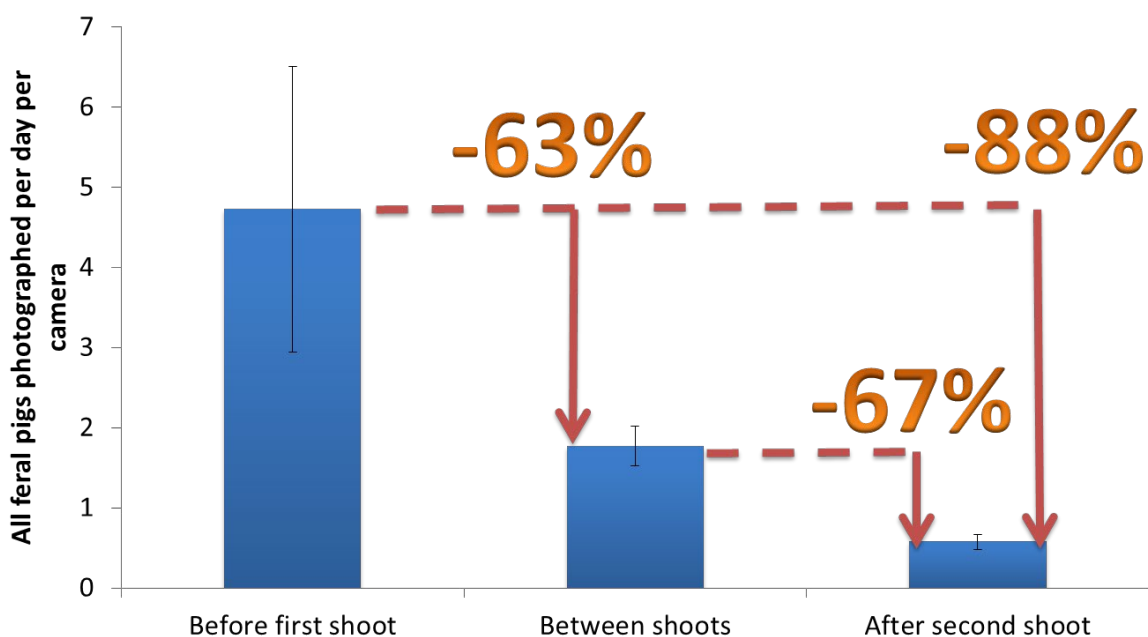
WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regions	Aerial Shoot Round 1			Aerial Shoot Round 2		
	No. Landholders	No. Hectares	No. Pigs Destroyed	No. Landholders	No. Hectares	No. Pigs Destroyed
Inglestone	32	157,923.48	2340	47	188,965.26	2216
The Gums	34	53,859.85	1138	59	105,504.27	1417
Moonie	34	65,534.12	672	25	73,546.49	1218
Meand/Han/Condi	22	73,973.28	920	48	107,779.10	1107
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>351,290.73</b>	<b>5070</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>368,016.01</b>	<b>5958</b>
<b>TOTAL PIGS FOR THE PROGRAM = 11,028</b>						

QMDC provided the tools for monitoring and evaluating the impact this project would have on the region. Movement sensing cameras were systematically established in the field prior to implementing any aerial shoot and were capturing data throughout the 2 programs so the effectiveness of control and reinfestation rates could be measured.



As a result of this monitoring, we have been able to illustrate to landholders the fundamental value in coordinated pest control programs. As the graphs attached show, through providing the assistance, information and opportunity to landholders through this program, the feral pig population was reduced by 86%. These figures far exceeded our expectations.



The success of these programs was largely due to partnerships, commitment and seizing opportunities.

- The establishment of partnerships between Council and the Regional NRM group.
- The Commitment of landholders and group coordinators to the program and their persistence with historically 'non-active' landholders.
- Council's Rural Services for seizing the opportunity to 'make a very real difference' to pest management and the lives of property managers within the Western Downs Regional Council.

While a small percentage of landholders could not see the 'value' in region wide control programs, the vast majority have been able to now see and comment on the importance of having everyone involved, leaving no gaps for Feral pigs to hide.

This project was so successful Council's Rural Services continues to promote the results and process across the wider region of Western Downs Regional Council in an effort to encourage the development of further coordinated pest management groups, to make a real difference in how Pest Management occurs within Western Downs. So far, there has been great interest from landholders, industry (particularly CSG) and neighbouring local government. Project success continues with:

- The development of 5 new landholder pest management groups who have started coordinated pest programs.
- The continuation of coordinated pest control activities within the original target area.
- Cross-regional projects in partnership with Maranoa Regional Council, Balonne Regional Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council and QMDC, addressing both Feral Pigs and Wild Dogs.
- A 1080 baiting for Feral Pigs monitoring project in partnership with QMDC, which will provide vital on-ground, local information around the effectiveness of 1080 baiting and see the establishment of another landholder pest management group.
- Growth and development



## **PART C: 'WEED SEED PREVENTION'**

Outlines: Washdown Facilities

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

***The spread of weeds continually threatens our primary industries, environment and social amenity.***

When a vehicle or machine is driven through a weed-infested area, seeds become lodged in cracks and crevices, including tyre treads, radiators, licence plates and the chassis. The seeds may then be carried hundreds of kilometres before dislodging in new areas.

***All plants listed as Restricted Matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014 must be cleaned from machinery, vehicles and equipment to help prevent their spread. Landholders, service providers, companies and industry must competently and consistently clean down their vehicles and machinery to fulfil their duty of care, meet client demands and satisfy legislative obligations.***

***Council does not support temporary on road washdowns due to the high risk of weed infestation that may occur in that location. Furthermore, temporary, on property (on farm) washdowns should only be used to decontaminate a vehicle as a result of weed seed obtained from that property, rather than a full pre-entry washdown.***

***It is an offence to move or transport a vehicle on a road if it is known, or ought to be known, that it or its load is contaminated with Restricted Matter, unless the load is contained.***

### **2.0 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS**

***Under Queensland legislation, owners and/or operators (including Western Downs Regional Council) are required to ensure their vehicles and machinery are free of the reproductive material of Restricted Matter. Reproductive material includes any of the plant that is capable of growing (eg a seed or part of a seed; a bulb or part of a bulb, a rhizome, a stolon, a tuber, a stem leaf cuttings or fragments).***

***Under the Land Access Code, a resource authority holder must (if asked) provide a landholder with a copy of the wash-down record showing that their vehicle is clean before entering a property.***

### **3.0 SOURCES OF WEED CONTAMINATION**

***Possible sources of contamination include:***

- ***Heavy machinery (e.g. dozers, excavators, graders) may contain weed seeds in mud on the tracks, tyres or attached implements.***
- ***Farm machinery and vehicles that have been used in infested paddocks (e.g. tractors, four-wheel drives) may be contaminated via mud on the wheels, seeds trapped in radiators or seeds in cabin floor mats.***
- ***Implements such as slashers, ploughs, mulchers and post-hole diggers may be contaminated with weed seeds after being used in infested paddocks.***
- ***Harvesting machinery and headers may collect weed seeds in augers, in bins and behind guards when harvesting crops that are infested with weeds.***
- ***Wheeled loaders and other mining and construction equipment may contain contaminated mud.***

- *Cars, trucks and four-wheel drives that have driven off-road through weed infestations may catch weed seeds in the radiator, mud guards, tyres and underbody.*
- *Trucks that have transported livestock from infested areas may contain viable weed seeds (e.g. prickly acacia, giant rat's-tail grass) that have fallen from or been passed through stock.*

## **4.0 WASHDOWN FACILITIES**

Western Downs Regional Council has commissioned three washdown facilities across the region in order to provide the opportunity for weed and seed removal.

**Fees:** Purchase a 'non-refundable' Avdata Key \$32.00 from Chinchilla Customer Service Centre. The Avdata key can be used with all washdown facilities Australia wide also using the Avdata system. Note: Key cannot be used for Standpipes.

<b>Maximum vehicle size:</b>	No limit
Height limit:	No limit
Weight limit:	30 tonne track machinery must remain on their float or on tyres to avoid damage to washdown surface.
Surface:	Concrete
Hose detail:	Supplied
Hours of operation:	24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Note: it will be closed regularly for cleaning and maintenance.
Damage/misuse:	Damage or misuse to be reported to Western Downs Regional Council from the user for the recovery of repair costs.
Housekeeping:	All mud and dirt must be completely washed off the washdown to avoid slipping hazard.
Rules of use:	As per on site signage.

### **4.1 Chinchilla**

Location: Chinchilla Saleyards – Slessar Street, Chinchilla

**Vehicles ALLOWED:** All Resource and Civil Vehicle types. No Livestock Vehicles.

**Note: Livestock Vehicles are unable to washdown at this facility due to the inability to treat livestock effluent as required.**

### **4.2 Dalby**

Location: Dalby Saleyards, Yumborra Road, Dalby

**Vehicles ALLOWED:** All Vehicle types. (Including Livestock, Resource and Civil).

### **4.3 Wandoan**

Location: Wandoan Saleyards – Windeyer Road, Wandoan.

**Vehicles ALLOWED:** All Vehicle types. (Including Livestock, Resource and Civil).